5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden M M1

of the Garrison, and famine in the hinterland), the floating population increased considerably, and in the absence of proper accommodation were perforce allowed to construct and live in *kutcha* huts in specially demarcated areas.

While control is exercised as far as is possible to prevent epidemics, these are slum areas, which can only be cleared by Government building several hundred working-class houses at a sub-economic rent; areas for this purpose are being reserved under the Town Planning Scheme.

The Town Planning Scheme is gradually taking shape, but in the absence of adequate trained staff, the work can only make slow process. Relaxation on the restriction of building by private enterprise has, however, led to the issue of 78 Permanent Building Permits in 1947 compared with 21 during 1946.

The shortage of some building materials, particularly semi-manufactured iron and steel products and sanitary fittings, is still acute and many projects are held up for this reason.

During 1947 the Township Authority was able to embark on two housing schemes.

(1) In Sheikh Othman 40 houses were erected for working-class families. The scheme is financed in part from a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

(2) An area in Crater was planned on which Government intends to erect 36 working-class houses of a slightly better type and in which 86 plots were made available for owner-occupiers to erect houses for themselves, a standard plan having been drawn up and approved by the Township Authority so that building could be done as cheaply as possible. Both Township Authorities of Aden and Sheikh Othman set up permanent Housing Committees whose functions are to allocate all houses erected by Government other than houses erected specifically for occupation by Government employees. The Committee set up in the Fortress Area decided on the allocation of plots referred to above on which houses were to be erected by private enterprise. As town planning legislation has not yet been enacted, there has been some delay in making available plots of land in the Fortress Area on which better-class houses could be erected by private enterprise on any substantial scale. Residential building has been confined mainly to reconstruction or adding storeys to existing houses.

In addition, private building was encouraged where possible.

SOCIAL WELFARE AND RELIEF

There are no social insurance schemes in Aden Colony.

A Government social welfare organisation is being built up gradually, but has been handicapped through lack of staff. A Poor Relief Committee, financed partly through public subscriptions, but notably through